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Electrical Design Note for a 5000 ADC, 230 μH Power Supply Filter Choke

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$5000~ADC, 230~\mu H \\ Power Supply Filter Choke$

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	. 1
CHOKE PARAMETER REQUIREMENTS	. 1
CHOKE ELECTRICAL DESIGN	
3.1 Steel Choice	. 2
3.2 Coil Design	. 4
CHOKE ASSEMBLY	. 5
DRAWINGS	. 5
TESTING	. 6
COST	. 6
COMMENTS	. 6
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	. 8
REFERENCES	. 8
	CHOKE PARAMETER REQUIREMENTS CHOKE ELECTRICAL DESIGN 3.1 Steel Choice 3.2 Coil Design CHOKE ASSEMBLY DRAWINGS TESTING COST COMMENTS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1.0 Introduction

Most high current iron core filter chokes for DC power supplies at Fermilab are constructed from magnet laminations. Sometimes these laminations need to be trimmed to yield the correct gap. Occasionally magnets are used as DC chokes. Both of these approaches are expensive. The large forward drop across a magnet often is unacceptable and makes it very expensive to operate. For instance, operating a B2 magnet for one year at 3000 ADC costs about \$34,000. A properly designed choke could cut this operating cost to about \$4,000. It would also take less space and cause less floor loading, but it's inductance would also be smaller. Constructing a customized choke from magnet laminations is still rather expensive from a labor and iron cost point of view, but at least the losses can be controlled by proper design. In general, these types of chokes are not required to be made precisely. The coil and iron dimensions are not very critical as long as they can handle the current and as long as the iron does not saturate. Therefore, it is very reasonable to make chokes from commercially available, standard, tape wound silicon steel transformer cores. Many manufacturers, such as Arnold Engineering, and others make a large variety of sizes in 12 mill thick or thinner laminations (Fig. 3). Completed cut cores cost about \$1.83/lb (1992).

Several cores can be put in parallel to yield the required amount of iron cross section, and the required gap can be made by inserting a standard thickness G-10 shim between the cut core halves. The gap prevents iron saturation. The coil, with the iron cores around it, can be mounted in a steel cradle which holds the assembly together.

This type of design has several advantages.

- 1. The choke design can be customized easily because of the large variety of sizes of commercially available cores.
- 2. The cost of steel cores is low compared to customized laminations, except probably for mass production. No custom punching dies need to be made.
- 3. The magnetic properties of the steel cores are superior and well published.
- 4. The frequency response is superior.
- 5. Assembly is fast. A 2500 lbs choke and completed coil can be assembled in about 2 manweeks after some practice.
- Losses and voltage drops can be controlled by making the proper design choices.

This note describes the design of a 5000 ADC, 230 μ H choke made from standard transformer cores. Five of these chokes have been made for CDF and MTF. NOTE: Special magnets can also be made using standard cores (Ref. 1).

2.0 CHOKE PARAMETER REQUIREMENTS

Both CDF and the Magnet Test Facility needed chokes to reduce the output voltage ripple of their 5000 A, 12 phase, unfiltered DC power supplies. Chokes rated about 200 μ H at 5000 ADC, with a properly chosen capacitor, will cause sufficient ripple reduction. The voltage drop across the choke should not exceed 3 V, because of circuit voltage limits at the installation site. Thus the required choke has to be as follows:

- 2.1 $\sim 200 \, \mu \text{H}$ at 5000 ADC
- $2.2 \leq 0.6 \times 10^{-3} \Omega$ at 60° C
- 2.3 Cooling water ~ 1.5 GPM at $\Delta P = 100 \text{ PSI}$

Comment:

The average coil operating temperature may be 60°C or less. The maximum inlet water temperature is 40°C maximum. The outlet cannot exceed 80°C, because the choke is protected against overtemperature (loss of cooling) with thermal switches (klixons) of 80°C. The coil insulation system is usually good for 140°C maximum, but a maximum operating temperature of 80°C is generally chosen in order to avoid cooling hose connection problems and possible steam formation at hotspots in the coil. The cooling water temperature will change according to a ratio of power versus flow rate as follows:

$$\Delta T \circ C = \frac{3.8 \text{ x kW}}{GPM}$$

So, as a rule of thumb, we can say that with a practical cooling water temperature rise limit of 40°C, we need one GPM of cooling water flow for every 10 kW of coil losses.

3.0 CHOKE ELECTRICAL DESIGN

3.1 Steel Choice

For starters, choose a coil current density of 2000 A/inch² for the water cooled choke winding. This means that the steel cores have to have a winding space area of about:

$$\frac{5000}{2000}$$
 x 1.25 ~ 3 inch ²/turn

$$\frac{1}{1.25}$$
 = 0.8 is the estimated copper fill factor for the winding area

The winding space must be able to accommodate several turns, because the inductance increases with the square of the turns. However, more turns also require the gap to increase, because otherwise the steel would saturate at full DC current. Increasing the gap reduces the choke inductance linearly. Choose 1-1/4" x 1" copper with rounded corners and a 3/8" diameter cooling hole for the coil winding, because it is available as a leftover from the magnet factory. Each copper crossection is 1.1in^2 and yields $\frac{5000}{2.2}$ = 2,270 A/inch² for two conductors in parallel at 5000 ADC. We are now ready to select a core from a catalogue. Arnold core #AA554 has a winding space of 11-1/4" x 2-1/2" ~ 28 inch² and can therefore accommodate 8 or 9 turns. The core has a steel crossection of 2-11/16" x 4", or $69.35 \times 10^{-4} \text{ m}^2$. This looks like a good choice. This core is easy to buy and weighs 98.5 lbs (or about 50 lbs / 1/2 core) and is therefore easy to handle.

We are now getting ready to calculate the inductance per core with 8 turns, but we first have to make a choice for the maximum magnetic field strength in the steel so that it

does not saturate. Choose $B = 13 \text{ kGauss} (1.3 \text{ Wb/m}^2)$ maximum from published BH curves. The ampereturns needed to drive the flux through the steel of the cores can be neglected. The steel ampereturns at 13 kG are a very small fraction of the ampereturns needed to drive the same field through the choke gap. With these choices it is possible to calculate the gap and the inductance per core as follows:

$$B \sim 1.3 \text{ Wb/m}^2$$

 $N = 8$
 $I = 5000 \text{ A}$
 $G = ?$

How large a gap G is needed so that the core does not saturate? The cut core needs two gaps in series, one on each side. The gap can be calculated from:

$$B = \mu_0 \ H \qquad \qquad \mu_0 = 4\pi \ x \ 10^{-7} \quad (mks \ system) \\ H = AT/m \qquad \qquad H = AT/m$$

$$B = \frac{4\pi \times 10^{-7} \times 8 \times 5000}{2G} \sim 1.3$$

This yields G = 1.93 cm. Select G = 3/4" thick G10.

Then: B =
$$\frac{4\pi \times 10^{-7} \times 8 \times 5000}{2 \times 0.75 \times 2.54 \times 10^{-2}}$$

B = 1.319 Wb/m²

The flux ϕ per core is the crossectional area times the field strength.

$$\phi$$
/core = 1.319 x 69.35 x 10⁻⁴

$$\phi$$
/core = 91.5 x 10⁻⁴ Wb

The inductance per core is the coupled flux per Ampere.

Thus: L/core =
$$\frac{N\phi}{I}$$

$$L/core = \frac{8 \times 91.5 \times 10^{-4}}{5000}$$

$$L/core = 14.64 \times 10^{-6} H$$

With 16 cores the inductance is:

$$L/16 \text{ cores} = 234 \times 10^{-6} \text{ H}$$

This looks reasonable and the coil can now be calculated. The steel cores can be arranged in two rows of eight cores. This is similar to the shell type, double core, single coil configuration shown in Fig. 3.

3.2 <u>Coil Design</u>

A preliminary design of the choke is shown in Drwg. #ATV090892CDF. The coil carries 5000 A, has 8 turns and uses two 1" x 1-1/4" copper conductors in parallel. Each conductor has a 3/8" diameter cooling waterhole and a copper crossection of 1.1 inch². The current density in the copper is 2273 A/inch² at 5000A. Assume an average coil operating temperature of 60°C, which is about the worst case from a voltage drop point of view.

Properties of copper are mostly listed at 20°C and per cm³ or inch³, but it is handier to list them at operating temperature and sizes as below:

Typical Cu resistance at 60°C: $R_{60}^{\circ}C = 9.6771 \times 10^{-6} \Omega/\text{in}^2/\text{ft}$

Typical Cu weight: $W = 3.86 \text{ lbs/in}^2/\text{ft}$

Resistance temperature

coefficient per °C at 20°C: $\alpha = 0.00393$

With this information it is easy to calculate the coil.

I = 5000A

N = 8

Total Cu crossection $= 2.2 \text{ inch}^2$

Coil average turn length = 90"

Total coil weight ~ 516 lbs (120' of Cu)

Coil resistance at 60° C, R_{60}° C = $0.38 \times 10^{-3} \Omega$

Coil voltage drop at 5000A, $60^{\circ}C = 1.9 \text{ V}$

Coil losses at 5000A, 60° C = 9.5 kW

Estimated flow at $\Delta P = 100 \text{ PSI}$ $\sim 10 \text{ GPM}$

Minimum needed flow at 40°C

water temperture rise, or 20°C

average coil temperature rise = 1 GPM

This coil will work. The coil is wound on a winding fixture, after which B stage tape is applied around the two copper conductors in parallel. After that the coil receives a ground wrap and is cured on the winding fixture. For reference see drawings 5525-ME-274925 through -274929. There was some keystoning at the coil bends that needed to be

removed. The leads of the coil are made long for ease of connection at the installation site. Copper flags are brazed to the leads for power connections.

4.0 CHOKE ASSEMBLY

The choke is assembled in a shop and requires the use of a small crane. Two rows of eight cores are banded around the coil, with two G-10 shims used as spacers to create the gap. The winding surface walls of the cores are lined with a medium-hard rubber material and the cores are shimmed for a snug fit around the coil before banding (Fig. 3). The cores are separated by a thin piece of DMD (or other insulation material) to prevent possible iron shorts across the lamination of adjacent cores. After this, the cores are put in a cradle (Drwg. ATV010892CDF, Sh 5). A similar cradle is put on the top and both cradles are thereafter welded together with side plates. The banding buckles fall in the cavity under the side plates between the top and bottom caps. Stops are installed to prevent the assembly and the coil from sliding inside. The cores are not all equal in size and there are cavities under some cores as they sit in the "box". One gallon of epoxy is therefore poured in the bottom cradle. After the bottom epoxy is cured, the choke is turned over and another gallon of epoxy is poured in at the previous top cradle. This secures the cores and completes the assembly of the chokes. The assembly of the chokes was done at MAB. The coils were made at the Magnet Factory.

5.0 DRAWINGS

The following is a list of drawings for the choke:

#ATV010892CDF, SH1	 Power supply choke for CDF 5000ADC, 230μH, 0.4Ω
#ATV010892CDF, SH2	- same as above
#ATV010892CDF, SH5	 Power supply choke for CDF core cradle
#ATV010892CDF, SH6	 Power supply choke for CDF spacer and nameplate
5525-ME-274925	 Conventional magnet facility choke coil - coil assembly
5525-ME-274926	 Conventional magnet facility choke coil - coil crossection
5525-ME-274527	- Conventional magnet facility choke coil - shims
5525-ME-274528	 Conventional magnet facility choke coil - winding fixture
5525-ME-274929	 Conventional magnet facility choke coil - curing fixture

6.0 TESTING

The following were tested:

1) Cooling flow -3.8 GPM at $\Delta P \sim 75$ PSI

2) Pressure test - 375 PSI for 15 min

3) Hi-potential test 2500 Vdc, 1 min $-> 2500 \text{ M}\Omega$

4) DC resistance $-0.23 \times 10^{-3} \Omega$ at $\sim 20^{\circ}$ C

5) Inductance $-> 230 \,\mu\text{H}^{(1)}$

7.0 COST

The cost of the winding/curing fixture was \$4300.00 excluding design cost.

Material cost per choke:

16 Cores - \$2940.00

2 cradles, 2 side plates,

miscellaneous - \$ 175.00

516 lbs copper (free from

stock) - \$1500.00 (estimated value)

Total material ~ \$5000.00

The labor cost for winding and curing of the coil is not precisely known, but is about \$7,500.00. Choke assembly takes about 2 manweeks.

8.0 COMMENTS

The design of this choke or similar chokes is easily modified by changing the gap, the number of turns, or the number of cores. For instance, we could put all windings in series and end up with 16 turns at 2500A. This would yield a 0.92 milliHenry choke at 2500 ADC.

Another interesting idea is to vary the thickness of the G-10 shims installed in different cores. A smaller gap causes the inductance per core to increase, but also causes it to saturate at a

⁽¹⁾ The results of the inductance test were not meaningful. The measured values at low operating current were on the order of 460 mH. This is probably caused by flux bypassing the gap via the banding buckles and the steel cradle spacer. These parts will saturate at higher currents, but testing at high current was not practical in the assembly area.

lower d.c. current value. For instance, cutting the gap in half causes the inductance to increase by a factor of two, but also causes saturation at half of the original gap saturation current..

Saturation causes the inductance to decrease to a low value. We can imagine a simplified saturation effect and say that the inductance becomes zero after saturation and that the steel abruptly saturates. Each core of the 5000 A choke would than contribute 14.6 x 10⁻⁶H to the total choke below the saturation current and none above saturation, as shown in Fig. 1.

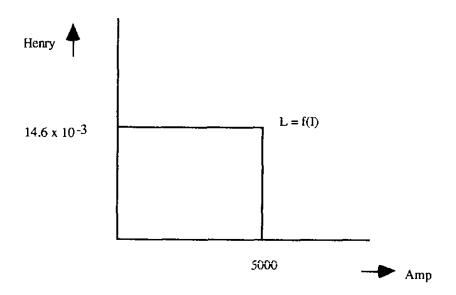


Figure 1: Simplified inductance per core.

Now imagine that we use different gaps in the 16 cores as follows:

		Gap	Core Saturating Current Amp	Contribution to Inductance Below Saturation µH
	4 Cores	2 x 3/4	5000	58.4
	4 Cores	0.8 x 2 x 3/4	4000	83.0
E	4 Cores	$0.6 \times 2 \times 3/4$	3000	97.0
	4 Cores	0.4 x 2 x 3/4	2000	146.0

This yields a total choke inductance of:

Operating Current AMP	Total Choke Inductance μΗ
5000	58
4000	141
3000	238
2000	384

The inductance of this tapered gap choke as a function of the current is plotted in Figure 2.

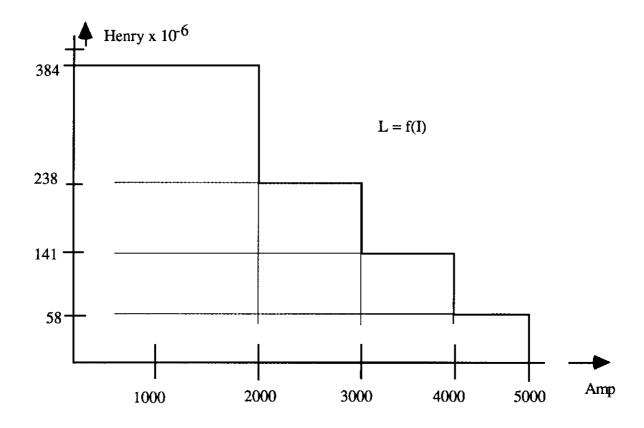


Figure 2: Tapered gap choke

Other combinations can be made. This is interesting, because power supply ripples are about twice as large (12 phase unfiltered) at medium output voltage than at full output. The ripple filter choke inductance can therefore be smaller at high power supply output. Lighter weight tapered gap chokes could therefore be just as effective, when used as power supply ripple filter chokes.

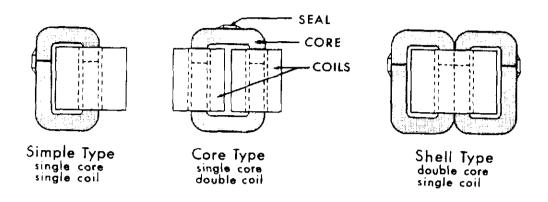
9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

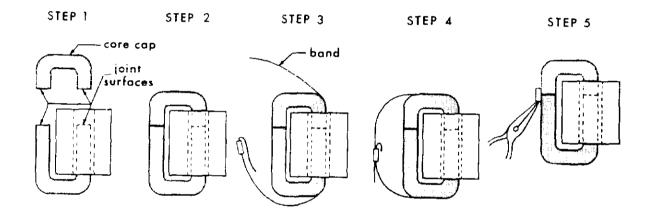
The assembly of the chokes was coordinated by John Juneau at MAB. He did an excellent job.

10.0 REFERENCES

(1) TM1605, A.T. Visser, July 1989, A novel flattop current regulated energy discharge type pulsed power supply and magnet yielding 4.4 kGaussmeter for 6 milliseconds.

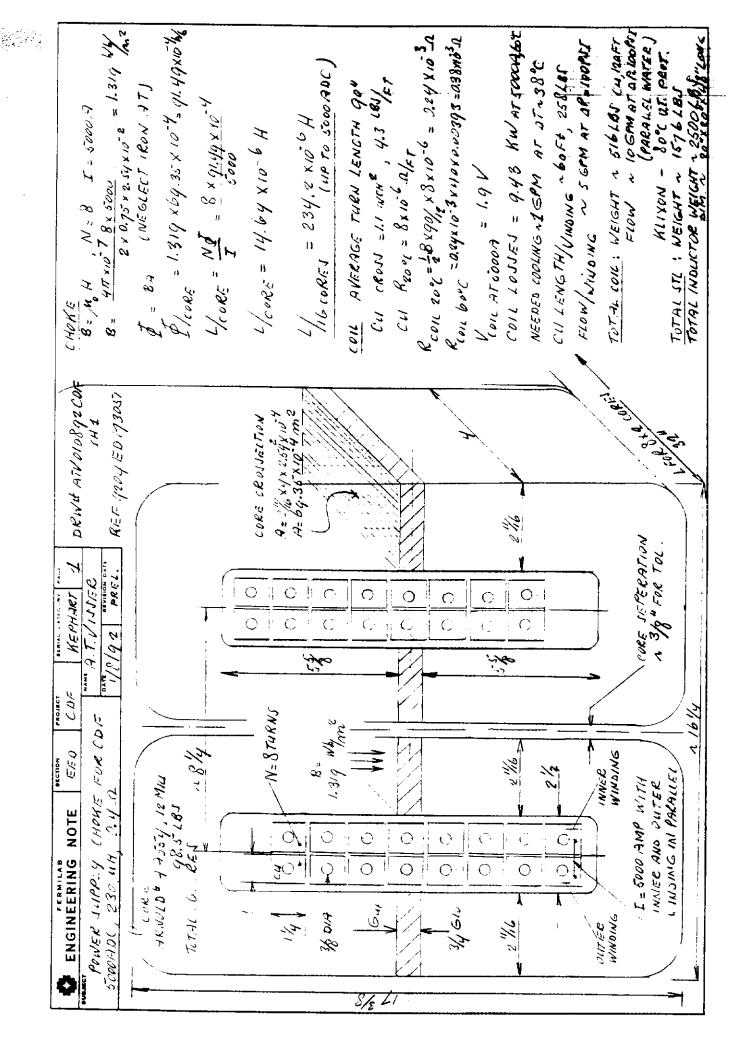
BANDING DATA

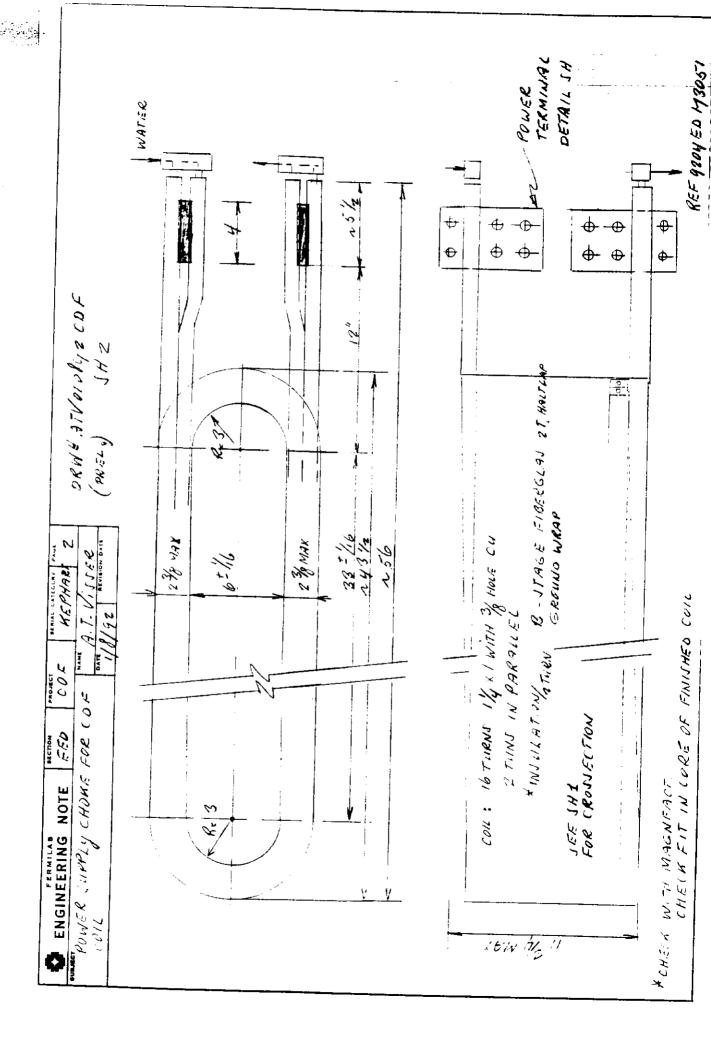


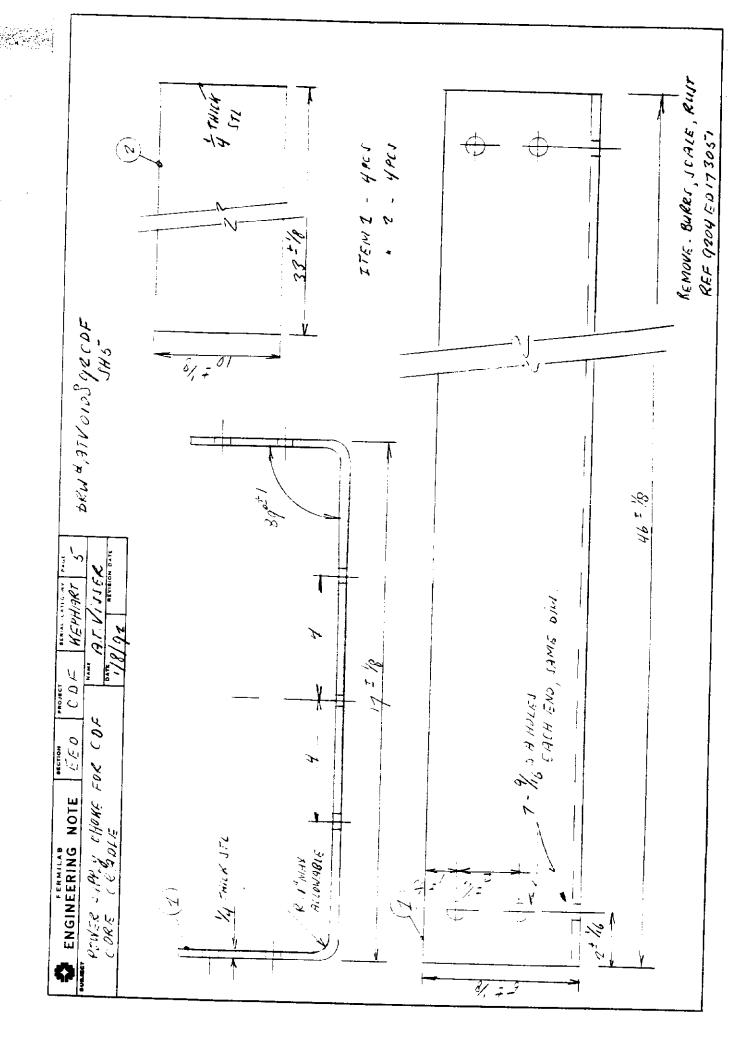


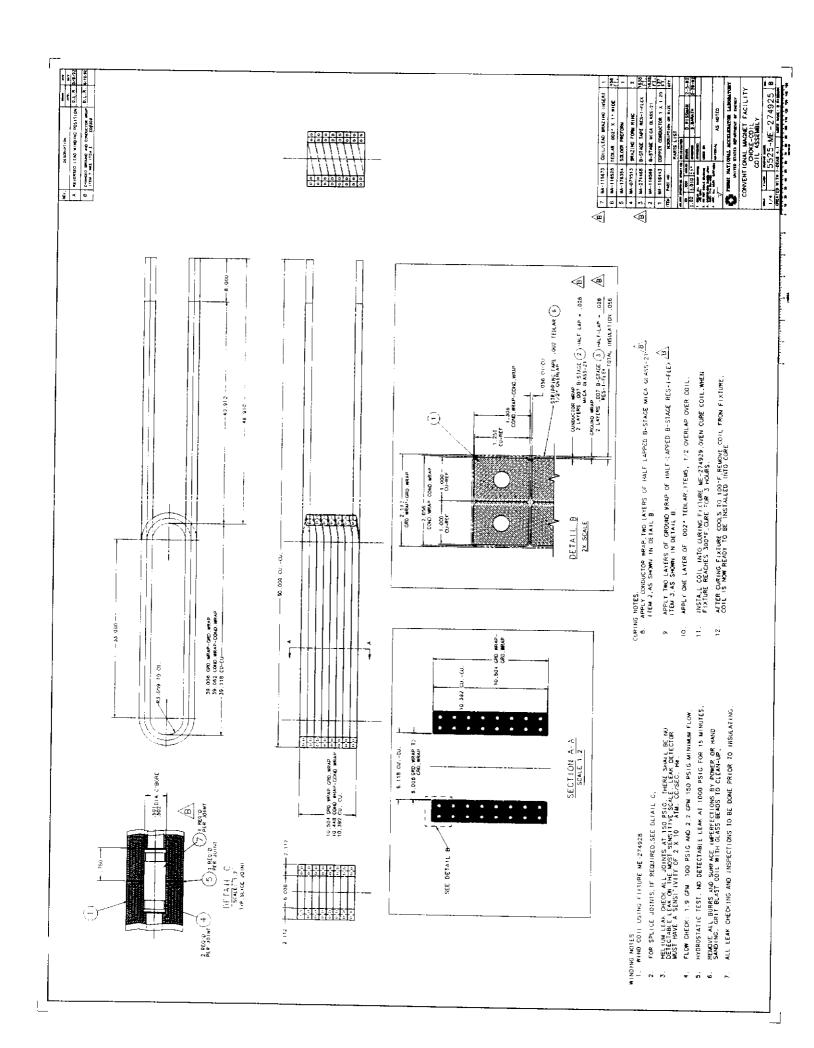
Core Strip Width (in.)	Core Cross-Section $(D \times E)$ -in ²	Band Size	No. Bands Required	Seal Dimension (in.)	Banding Force (lb.)
Any	.188 or less	3/16 x .006	1	3/16 x 1/4	37.5
3/8 or larger	.188 to .375	$3/8 \times .006$	1	3/8 x 3/8	75
3/8 to 1-1/2	.375 to .75	$3/8 \times .012$	1	3/8 x 3/8	150
1-5/8 or larger		3 8 x .006	2	3/8 x 3/8	75
1/2 to 1-1/8	.75 to 1.5	3/8 x .012	1	3/8 x 3/8	150
1-1/4 or larger		3 8 x .012	2	3/8 x 3/8	150
3/4 or larger	1.5 to 3.0	3.4 x .023	1	7/8 x 1-7/8	600
3/4 or larger	3.0 to 4.25	3/ 4 x .035	1	7/8 x 1-7/8	900
2 or larger	4.25 to 6.0	3/4 x .023	2	7/8 x 1-7/8	600
3-1/4 or larger	6.0 to 9.0	3/4 x .023	3	7/8 x 1-7/8	600
3-1/4 or larger	9.0 to 13.5	$3/4 \times .035$	3	7/8 x 1-7/8	900

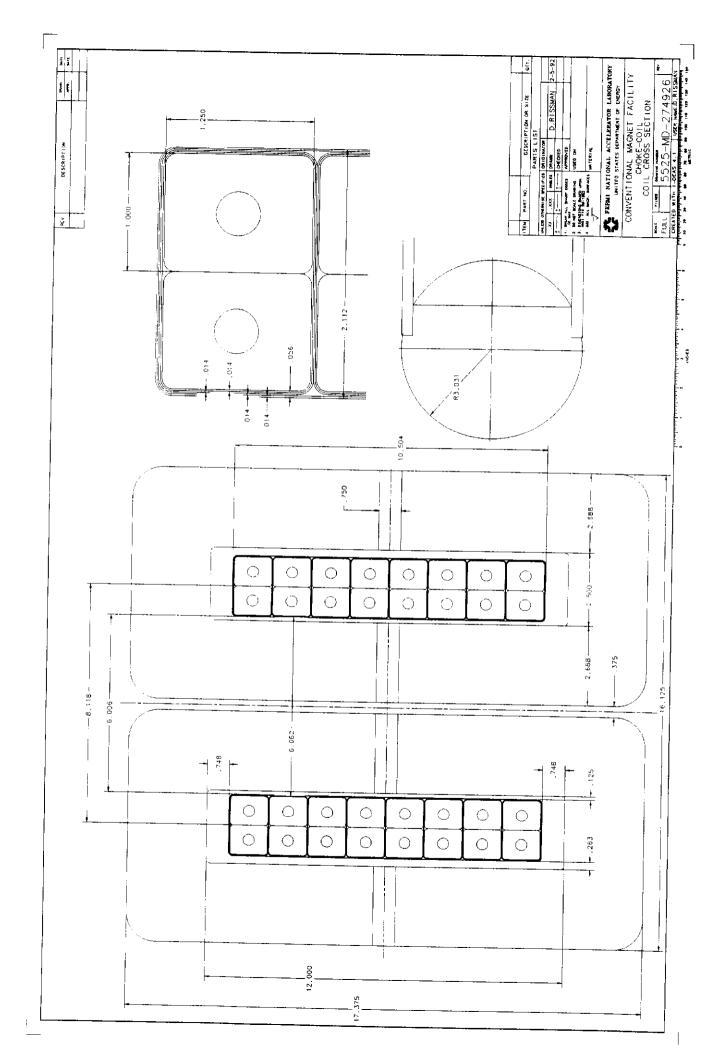
Figure 3











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